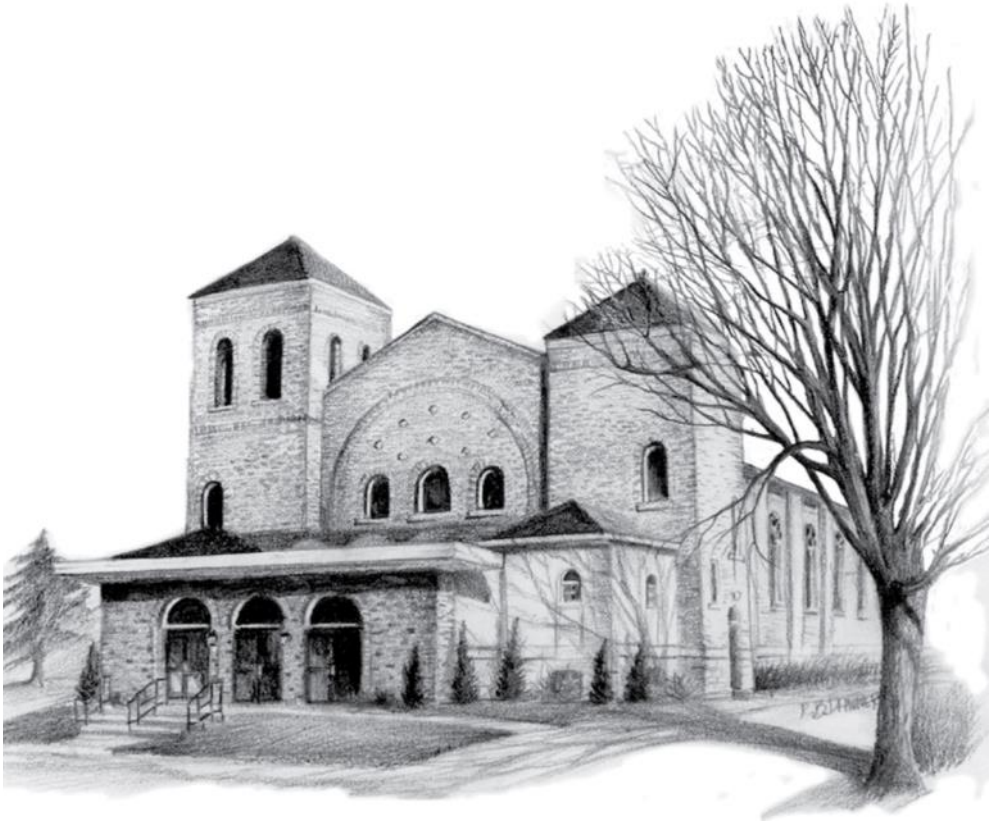




Houghton
WESLEYAN CHURCH

*Joyfully loving God,
wholeheartedly serving others*



WESLEY ODEN, *Senior Pastor*

JON COLE, *Youth Pastor*

DAVID HUIZENGA, *Assistant Pastor*

CINDY ODEN, *Assistant Pastor*

GRACE DEITRICK, *Assistant Pastor*

EMILY SPATEHOLTS, *Children's Ministry Director*

JUDY CONGDON, *Organist and Choir Director*

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 1, 2023

11:00 A.M.

Prelude: *Variations on "How Great Thou Art"*

M. Burkhardt

Announcements & Greeting One Another

Hymn of Praise: ***O God Our Help in Ages Past*** (#59)

Sermon: *When You Feel the Church is Broken*

Children's Sermon: Water From a Rock

Scripture Reading: Psalm 77

Holy Communion

The Praise is Yours; Victory in Jesus

Knowing You; My Faith Has Found a Resting Place

Time of Prayer

Holy Father, we confess that we may approach you with our mouths and our lips, when our hearts are not in worship. We confess that we offer to you that which costs us little. Though you are a great King, we often bring to you the leftovers of our time, energy, gifts, and worship. We have neglected your commands when it is inconvenient for us to keep them. We have ignored your laws when it causes us to lose our ease. We have disregarded our neighbors' needs, and wondered aloud why other people do not meet our needs. O Father, have mercy on us! Forgive us of our many debts! Cleanse us and give us the mind and heart of Jesus, who came not to be served but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many. In His name, and for His sake, we come to you. Amen.

Choral Anthem: *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

arr. G. Martin

Benediction

Postlude: Hymns of Reassurance

Acolyte: Grace Walton

Reader: Diane Emmons

Musicians:

Alison Young Ruesser (vocal & guitar), Grace Jordan (vocal),
Cody Johnson (vocal), Gabe Huizenga (cajòn), Jill Jordan (violin),
Tim McGarvey (horn), David Huizenga (piano)

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. The apostle Paul writes, "So now there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1). As we gather here or wherever you are, may we embrace the freedom that God has bestowed on us. Let us unite ourselves as one body, that we may exercise this freedom and use it to cultivate a community of faith. May our worship today leave us renewed by His power and convinced of His love.

THE LORD'S SUPPER: This morning we are receiving the elements of communion by intinction (to dip in). When your row is released, come to the front, tear off a piece of bread, dip it into the cup and eat it. You may return to your seat by the outside aisle. As an alternative to intinction, we have set up stations with trays of bread and cups as well as gluten-free bread. If you prefer to use these elements, feel free to walk past the intinction servers and proceed to the trays. If coming to the front is difficult for you or if you prefer, please inform the usher and we will serve you in your seat.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING: Pastor Wes explores another of the stories of people who are like us. Next week's sermon about four lepers who stumble upon a gold mine of food and goods (2 Kings 7), is titled: When You Are Blessed. Next Sunday we gather for worship at 8:30 and 11:00, both indoors. The 11:00 service will be streamed. Adult Discipleship Hour, Youth Sunday School and Kids Connect is at 9:45 a.m.

NEXT SUNDAY: In both 8:30 and 11am services next Sunday we will be led in worship by student musicians from Koinonia, the weekly university worship ministry supported by HWC. What a blessing it is for students to offer their gifts, and for us to share in their love for the Lord and joy in worship!

CONNECTING: If you are not currently receiving either a text or email for Pastor Wes's weekly letter, Pastor Wes's weekly video chat or other periodic updates (i.e., outdoor service weather updates) and would like to, please contact the church office (office@hwchurch.org/585-567-2264) and we will update your information.

KIDS CONNECT IN OCTOBER: "Are We There Yet?" - Can you imagine needing to walk through the desert? You'd be surrounded by cacti, sand, snakes, and more sand. With the heat of the sun, we'd wind up so thirsty and wondering "Are we there yet?" That's probably how the Israelites felt as they wandered around the desert, waiting to enter the Promised Land. But no matter how tired our feet get, we can focus on what's happening in our lives right now rather than just on where we're going. In this five-week series based on stories from Exodus, we'll explore how we can choose to be thankful, love God and others, turn to God when we're lost, go to God when we need rest, and remember God's promises.

- This week, kids hear how God helped Moses bring water from a rock.
BIG IDEA: We can choose to be thankful.
BIBLE: Exodus 17:1-7; Philippians 2:5-16
- Memory Verse: "I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." — Isaiah 43:19b (NIV)

HARVEST FESTIVAL: Save the date - Saturday, October 21st from 10-1. Donations of candy and individually packed snacks can be dropped off at the Church office.

STEWARDSHIP

Budget Needed: \$284,194.27 / **Budget Received:** \$255,892.03

OCTOBER IS PREGNANCY, INFANT & CHILD LOSS AWARENESS MONTH: In lieu of our traditional Bereavement Service, we are choosing to honor our children lost too soon and their families in a couple of different ways this year. “Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day is observed on October 15th each year. In the United States, 1 out of every 4 pregnancies ends in miscarriage and 1 and every 160 pregnancies end in stillbirth.” (<https://pregnancyafterlosssupport.org>) Please take a look at the special display in the nursery to honor and remember the children in our Church that are waiting for us in Heaven. Additionally, we encourage anyone interested to participate in the “Pink and Blue Awareness Project - The Pink and Blue Awareness Project is a 100% volunteer run project that makes and donates bracelets to be worn in October for Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month. We wear these bracelets beginning in October to raise awareness and to honor the thousands of babies lost to pregnancy and infant loss every year. One in four women suffer pregnancy and infant loss, often in silence. Wearing this bracelet shows your support for these families.” (<https://www.thecooperproject.org/pink-and-blue-project>) Pick up a bracelet at the CE Welcome Desk to wear during the month of October.

MISSION MOMENT – Let’s not forget outreach close to home. Weekly ministries include Celebrate Recovery, Fillmore Power House Center, the Grace Fund and Food Pantry, Wellspring Ministries, and even weekly Nursing Home outreach. There is always room for more participants and volunteers. We pray for God’s love to be shown, Jesus to be lifted up, and lives to be changed.

PERSECUTED CHURCH – While Christianity is very alive on the island state of Cuba, in recent years governmental requirements under a Family Code restrict Christian family freedoms. Required public education forces state ideology on children. We pray for church leaders and Christian parents to be bold in face of increased surveillance and threats.

PRAYER CONCERNS: for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Paul Roth, Matthew Pierson (Kim Prins-Moeller’s brother-in-law), James Bates, Vesta Mullen, Terry Ayers, Scarlett Gildemeister, Kim Pegula, Mim Case, Grace Taylor, Karen Gaerte, Andy Mikolajczyk (Mary Lingenfelter’s brother), Denise Zambrano, Cameron Green, Vangie Grant, Lenore Paige, Dan and Sarah Gurley, Chelsea Ellis, Keith Rugg (Kathy Moore’s father), Mark Mayhle (Doug’s brother), Jeshu, Kurtis and Eliyah Perry, Reuben Samuels, Emily Crikelair; for all dealing with tragedies and disasters; the recent acts of violence; for refugees throughout the world; for protection, wisdom and peace in Ukraine; for a Chinese pastor who has been detained for more than a year; for the Wesleyan Church of Orchard Park (Pastor Rob Engler).